

PRIORITY

FOCUS

Analysis, Commentary and Updates on Legislative and Policy Issues that Affect California Cities

September 22, 2006
Issue #37-2006

PROP. 90 OPPOSITION GROWS

'NO on 90' Editorials = Six and Growing...

The *Sacramento Bee* is the latest newspaper to editorialize against Prop. 90, calling it "radical," "sweeping," and "far-reaching." The editorial highlights the deceptive nature of Prop. 90 and notes that it will limit our ability to enact even the most basic laws that protect our communities.

For more, see Page 4.

9TH CIRCUIT CHANGES COURSE ON TRANSLATING RECALL PETITIONS

Earlier this year, a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued an opinion that the federal Voting Rights Act requires recall petitions to be translated into the minority languages identified by the Department of Justice for the county in which the petitions will circulate. An expanded 15-judge panel of the 9th Circuit has reheard the case and issued an opinion this week reversing its earlier conclusion. *For more, see Page 3.*

WANT MORE DETAILS
ON BILLS?

Visit the League of
California Cities
website at
[www.cacities.org/
billsearch](http://www.cacities.org/billsearch).

'HOW TO CREATE SMOKE-FREE OUTDOOR AREAS IN YOUR COMMUNITY'

Telephone Seminar Scheduled for October 24

The League of California Cities is hosting a live phone seminar entitled "How to Create Smoke-Free Outdoor Areas in Your Community," on October 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. *For more, see Page 3.*

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 2 LEAGUE WEBSITE NOW FEATURES RSS FEEDS
SEPTEMBER EDITION OF *FOCUS ON HOUSING* AVAILABLE

AGENDA ITEM 8.2.1

LEAGUE WEBSITE NOW FEATURES RSS FEEDS

The League of California Cities is pleased to announce the launch of its Really Simple Syndication (RSS) system – offering a new way to stay up-to-date with League issues affecting your city.

RSS allows you to subscribe to certain subject areas on the League website. When a story in that area is published on the website, the story headline and introductory paragraph are delivered to your RSS news reader for you to review. It's like having your own customized, up-to-the-minute League newsletter, covering only those subjects of interest to you.

When you receive an RSS feed that interests you enough to read the entire story, simply click on the title of the story in your news reader, and you'll be taken to that article on the League website. The system allows you to choose what you want to read, instead of having to go to the website and search through it for the news that interests you.

RSS Topics. The current League RSS Feeds are:

- Latest News Articles (front page League website stories, which can include a broad range of timely topics)
- Budget
- City Finance
- Community and Economic Development
- Conferences
- Environmental Quality
- Ethics
- Housing and Land Use
- Pension Reform
- Public Safety
- Public Works
- Telecommunications

How to Sign Up. To learn more about RSS and for information on how to sign-up to receive the League's RSS feeds, visit www.cacities.org/rss.

SEPTEMBER EDITION OF *FOCUS ON HOUSING* AVAILABLE

The September 2006 edition of *Focus on Housing*, the League's monthly affordable housing electronic newsletter, is now online.

This month's issue features an update on Proposition 90; an article regarding Prop. 1C, the housing bond on November's ballot; coverage of housing and land use sessions at the League's annual conference; an article on housing trusts and much more! Visit www.imakenews.com/focusonhousing to read the issue and for access to all previous editions.

Does your city have a new affordable housing redevelopment success story? Perhaps you have an idea for a feature article on an affordable housing issue you'd like to write? If so, we want to hear about it! Contact League Communications Specialist Brian Heaton at bheaton@cacities.org for possible inclusion of your story in a future issue of *Focus on Housing*.

Looking for California's Best to Fill a Position in Your City?

Western City magazine's job opportunity section is *the* source for job seekers looking for positions in local government. According to our reader survey, the job opportunity section is the best read section of our magazine!

When you place an ad in *Western City* magazine, it will be posted at no additional charge on our website, which receives over 80,000 hits per month.

Call to place your
recruitment ad today!
We Have What You Need
(800) 262-1801 or visit our website at
www.westerncity.com

RECALL from page 1..... SMOKE-FREE from page 1.....

Under California law, the recall petition format is established by the Secretary of State, and the local elections official merely reviews a recall petition prior to circulation to ensure it conforms to the state format. The 9th Circuit held that because the state has established the recall petition format, the local agency is not "providing" the petition form for purposes of the Voting Rights Act. For this reason, the court held that the Act does not require that petitions be translated.

Subsequent to the 9th Circuit's original opinion, recall opponents, as well as opponents of local initiatives and referenda, had brought challenges based on a failure of the proponents to circulate petitions in minority languages. With the 9th Circuit's recent decision, the continued validity of such challenges is questionable.

The 9th Circuit's opinion can be found on the court's website at www.ca9.uscourts.gov.

This 90-minute interactive teleconference is designed to show how your community can create smoke-free parks, beaches, and outdoor dining areas. Listen and learn by speaker phone from your office or city hall to hear from leaders who have helped institute popular and straightforward policies to protect children, the elderly, and workers from exposure to secondhand smoke, a known carcinogen.

All city officials and city staff, parks and recreation directors and department staff, planning commissioners, community services and development directors and department staff and health department officials are encouraged to attend this educational event.

Presenters include Joe Kellejian, councilmember, Solana Beach; Adam Radinsky, deputy city attorney, Head Consumer Protection Unit, Santa Monica; Randy Cooper, director of parks, recreation and community services, Fresno; Robin Salsburg, attorney, Technical Assistance Legal Center (TALC). Please note that the views expressed by the speakers are their own and do not necessarily represent the views or any position of the League of California Cities.

Find out how the City of Solana Beach became the first community in California to declare its beaches smoke-free. Get an update on the important steps the City of Santa Monica is taking to create smoke-free dining and shopping areas. And, explore the approach the City of Fresno has taken to address secondhand smoke exposure in their parks. These speakers, as well as a legal expert on secondhand smoke issues will be available to answer your questions.

The phone seminar costs only \$79 per listening site, with unlimited listeners! This fee includes one telephone/speakerphone connection and vital handout materials. For registration information, visit www.cacities.org and click on the story entitled "Teleseminar - Create Smoke Free Outdoor Areas." For additional information or to register by phone, call (800) 775-7654.

2006 CITY HALL DIRECTORY

Don't miss this opportunity to get the League's most useful reference tool. This comprehensive California directory provides important contact information for mayors, council members and city department heads. The directory also features the League's staff directory, League partners, affiliate organizations and a wide variety of advertisers.

INFORMATION YOU NEED, RIGHT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

Purchase this publication online at www.cacities.org/store or call (916) 658-8257 for an order form. City officials price \$30, non-city officials price \$65, plus shipping & handling.

PROP. 90 from page 1

Here's part of what the *Bee* said:

"No on Proposition 90, It boasts a radical stealth agenda"

"Proposition 90 is less about eminent domain than it is about an aggressive and radical campaign to redefine "takings" in a way never done before in this country...Proponents of Proposition 90 are using "eminent domain" as a hook, but don't be fooled. Proposition 90 is not really about fixing eminent domain abuses. It's about a sweeping agenda to freeze land use and other regulations. Vote No on Proposition 90."

Sacramento Bee, Editorial, 9/18/06
(Read the entire editorial at www.NoProp90.com.)

Other 'NO on 90' Editorials:

- *Napa Valley Register*, (9/14/06)
- *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*, (9/11/06)
- *Mountain View Voice*, (9/08/06)
- *Torrance Daily Breeze*, (8/23/06)
- *San Diego Union-Tribune*, (8/22/06)

'No on 90' Walk Pieces Available Soon

Planning to walk precincts in the next few weeks?

If so, please consider carrying a "No on 90" message with you when you do. The campaign is producing a two-sided color piece that you can use to help educate voters about this harmful measure.

Similar to the piece that was available at "No on Prop. 90" information desk at the League's Annual Conference, it will outline the impacts of Prop. 90 to taxpayers, the environment, public safety, infrastructure and our communities on the front, and the back will feature a partial list of the diverse groups who are opposed.

Walk pieces should be available the first week of October. Contact your League Regional Representative to reserve yours today.

Know the Rules for Ballot Measure Advocacy. City officials can participate in ballot measure advocacy if they do so **on their own time**, and without using any public resources. To make sure you understand the "do's and don'ts" of ballot measure advocacy, please review "Working on a Ballot Measure Campaign: Some Rules for City Officials," located at www.cacities.org/ballotmeasures.

'No on Prop. 90' Coalition Continues to Grow. More and more organizations and individuals are joining the "No on Prop. 90" coalition, as they become more familiar with the cynical "taxpayer trap" provisions in this measure.

Homeowners:

- Crescent Gardens Homeowners Association

Taxpayers:

- Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association

Public Safety:

- Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)

Business:

- Valley Industry and Commerce Association
- Southwest Legislative Council
- Murrieta Chamber of Commerce
- Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Redlands Chamber of Commerce
- Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce
- Contra Costa Council
- Downtown Sacramento Partnership
- San Carlos Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce

Continued on Page 5

Organized Labor:

- Service Employees International Union, California State Council
- California Association of Public Employees, AFL-CIO

Infrastructure/Transportation:

- California Infrastructure Coalition

Consumer/Public Interest:

- Commonweal America
- The San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association

Ethnic:

- Greenlining Institute

Community/Faith-Based:

- Urban Habitat

Agriculture:

- Napa County Farm Bureau

Housing Providers/Advocates:

- Livable Places

Environmental:

- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
- Marin Audubon Society
- Environmental Health Coalition
- Northcoast Environmental Center
- California Coastkeeper Alliance
- League to Save Lake Tahoe

Political Organizations:

- Log Cabin Republicans

Water:

- Metropolitan Water District
- Grassland Water District

Government:

- Lake Shastina Community Services District

Individuals:

- State Treasurer Phil Angelides
- Jim Dear, Mayor, City of Carson
- David K. Pendergrass, Mayor, City of Sand City
- Antonio Rivas, Mayor, City of Watsonville
- John Dutrey, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Montclair
- Roseann Mikos, Ph.D., Mayor Pro Tem, City of Moorpark
- Dave Allan, Councilmember, City of La Mesa
- Bob Hunter, Councilmember, City of Victorville
- Michael Kelley, Councilmember, City of Sausalito
- Laura Macias, Councilmember, City of Mountain View
- Tom Malson, Councilmember, City of Galt
- William J. Quirk, Councilmember, City of Hayward
- Kaitilin Gaffney, Planning Commissioner, City of Santa Cruz

Leaving City Office? Retiring?

The League wants to stay in touch! Just because you are leaving your position with the city doesn't mean you stop caring about or wanting to be involved in city issues. Keep abreast of developments affecting cities and the League by becoming part of the League's alumni group. Members will receive periodic updates on city issues and League activities. This is the League's way of saying "thank you" for your public service—there is no fee for this service.

To join, go to www.cacities.org/alumni or send your contact information to dharrison@cacities.org.